United Nations

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly concludes special session on international co-operation against illicit drugs, adopting Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action.

+ Permanent Representative of Cambodia says in letter to Secretary-General that "Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia" has not ended as promised in statement by Viet Nam last September.

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The General Assembly concluded its debate in its four-day special session on illicit drugs today, and adopted a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action.

Under the Political Declaration, Member States proclaimed the period 1991-2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and resolved to protect mankind from the drug scourge and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. To that end, States would seek to increase international co-operation, providing assistance to States, when requested, in sectors ranging from the economic and social to law enforcement. Among other provisions, States would urge increased economic and technical support to developing countries for viable alternative income schemes, such as crop substitution.

The Global Programme of Action, asserting that States are not in a position to deal with the drug abuse and trafficking problem individually, states that thus "international solidarity and the concerned collective and simultaneous action of the international community are required".

The extensive programme summarizes a variety of activities for dealing with drug abuse and trafficking under several separate headings: eliminating illicit demand for narcotic drugs; treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts; control of the supply of narcotic drugs; suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs; the illegal use of the banking system; strengthening judicial and legal systems; measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives; and the use of existing

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resources and structures within the United Nations for drug control activities.

Also under the Programme, the United Nations will act as an advisory centre for collecting, analysing and disseminating information and experience in the field of reduction of illicit demand. Such United Nations agencies as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are requested to co-operate in tackling the problem.

In his closing statement, Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, President of the forty-fourth General Assembly, who presided over the special session, said that while delegates had emphasized the primary responsibility of Member countries "to contain the social and economic outrage" the drug problem represented, they had also insisted on concerted international action under the United Nations aegis. Stating that they demanded substantial strengthening of the agencies concerned, Mr. Garba went on to say that the scope of the challenges posed by the drug problem obliged the United Nations to increase its financial resources above the figure of .04 of its prersent budget.

He also urged Member countries to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. "By doing so, and faithfully implementing the provisions of that Convention and those before it, we can achieve that essential international co-operation without which all our efforts will remain unfocused."

At a press briefing at Headquarters earlier today, Margaret J. Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Co-ordinator for the United Nations Drug Control Activities, said the 30-point draft political declaration and the 100-point draft global programme of action was "a very important political watershed in the fight of the international community against drugs".

Miss Anstee said there was a greatly increased emphasis on demand reduction as necessary to bringing drug abuse under control. There was also greater recognition of the relevance of economic development and international trade issues in dealing with problems of producer and transit countries.

Strengthening and enhancement of the United Nations drug abuse control capability had also been emphasized, and higher priority should be given to resources for United Nations drug programmes.

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In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Cambodia, Thiounn Prasith, said the "Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia" has not ended as promised in a statement made by Viet Nam last September.

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Ambassador Thiounn said the occupation was continuing under a new form with tens of thousands of Vietnamese soldiers disguised under the uniform of the Khmer soldiers of the "puppet army".

He said that by refusing flatly to accept the extensive supervision and control of its "so-called total withdrawal" from Cambodia by a United Nations control mechanism, Viet Nam had shown that it did not want "the Cambodian people to really exercise their inalienable right to self-determination".

The only way the "problem of Kampuchea" could be solved, he said, was if "all categories of Vietnamese forces, including the more than 1 million Vietnamese settlers, are totally and definitely withdrawn from Cambodia under the supervision and control of the United Nations", as outlined in the General Assembly resolution entitled "The situation in Kampuchea".

The national reconciliation of all Cambodians could only be achieved through the formation of a provisional quadripartite government which should represent Cambodia during the transitional period, Mr. Thiounn said.

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